

## **ALASKA ROADLESS RULE EIS**

### **WEEKLY STATUS MEETING**

**Date/Time:** November 20, 2018 11:00 a.m. Alaska

**Location:** Teleconference

<b>Attendees</b>		
Ken Tu, Forest Service	Sitka Pence, Forest Service	Robert Nichols, Forest Service
Lauren McChesney, Forest Service	Randy Fairbanks, Tetra Tech	Dave Cox, Tetra Tech

Ken provided a status update on the cooperators meeting, the development of alternatives, and the project schedule. Sitka led a discussion on the Key Issues and issues dismissed.

#### **Cooperators Meeting**

USFS shared the draft alternatives (Chapter 2) with the cooperators. Comments from the cooperators are due Wednesday (11/21/18). No Citizen's Advisory Committee report yet. Alternative 4 may be modified to match the State's request.

#### **Alternatives**

Discussed the draft Alternatives as presented in draft Chapter 2.

Reviewed changes to alternatives, including potential categories of roadless that could be applied to an alternative. Conceptually, "Category A" would increase limitations within IRAs under one alternative. This will not be included in the DEIS but may be introduced in the public comment letter to solicit public feedback. Potential for a 6<sup>th</sup> Alternative or modification of Alternative 3.

Discussed 'logical extensions' of IRAs to the HUC-14 watershed boundary where desirable timber exists, determined through working with the Districts.

USFS considering including direction the rule that would amend the Forest Plan under Alternative 4.

Chapter 2 should include discussion of Chugach boundary modifications if included in the action alternatives.

#### **Key Issues**

Sitka led a discussion of the Key Issues (see draft Chapter 1). Sitka to provide additional information addressing other issues identified through scoping that may not be analyzed in detail.

#### **Schedule**

- Cooperators' comments due 11/21, to be incorporated in the next version of Chapter 2
- Share issues and alternatives with Regional Leadership Team on Tuesday (11/27).
- Share with WO 12/3
- Finalize and send to Tetra Tech, with spatial coverage, by C.O.B. 12/7.
- USFS meeting with Tetra Tech in Bothell potentially the week of January 14 (TBD)

## **Other Topics Discussed**

- Purpose and Need
- Existing protections for fish habitat (TTRA buffers, Forest Plan) and common wildlife species considered (wolves, deer, goshawk).
- 2016 Roadless update mapped by Tetra Tech and inconsistencies with what the USFS is looking at. Tetra Tech to review.
- Tetra Tech continuing to look at breaking out acres by suitability, roadless, and other land use categories.
- Leaving in the analysis: Fuels, T&E species and climate.
- Dave provided a brief summary of the climate meeting.